

has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Collin led the refurbishing effort for the horseshoe pits in Claycomo, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Collin Ryan Crossley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCING THE DEFENSE AND DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Defense and Deficit Reduction Act, legislation that will reduce defense spending and thereby decrease the deficit over the next 5 years. This legislation serves as an addendum to the Majority's H. Res. 38, a resolution that reduces all non-defense discretionary spending to 2008 levels. If all other discretionary spending is slated for cuts under the Republican plan, then defense should not be exempt.

My bill will reduce government spending by over \$36 billion this year and about \$182 billion over the next 5 years. The legislation then requires that these funds be dedicated to reducing the deficit. As defense constitutes almost 60 percent of all discretionary spending, it only makes sense that it be included when other discretionary spending is being cut. These figures cannot and should not be ignored.

Even Department of Defense Secretary Gates has acknowledged the need for defense spending reductions saying, "We must come to realize that not every defense program is necessary, not every defense dollar is sacred or well-spent, and more of everything is simply not sustainable."

Going back to 2008 levels of defense spending would be approximately a 5 percent reduction. With the President reducing the number of troops in Afghanistan starting this year, we should be able to lessen our current spending on war costs. We also have the support of the American people. According to a recent CBS News Poll, over 50 percent of Americans believe we should reduce defense spending to decrease the Federal deficit. Making reductions to the defense budget can help solve our Nation's long-term fiscal problems.

If the new Majority in Congress really wants to lower the deficit as they claim to, then they must take all spending into consideration.

I urge my colleagues to join me in working to rein in wasteful spending and support the Defense and Deficit Reduction Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I regret missing floor votes on Monday, January 24, 2011 due to travel. If I were present, I would have voted: Nay on rollcall 17, on ordering the

previous question, H. Res. 43—Providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 38) to reduce spending through a transition to non-security spending at fiscal year 2008 levels; nay on rollcall 18, on agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 43—Providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 38) to reduce spending through a transition to non-security spending at fiscal year 2008 levels.

OFFICER DAVID MOORE

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this weekend in Indianapolis, we were tragically reminded of the sacrifices our law enforcement officers make in order to protect our families.

Officer David Moore of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department was shot four times on Sunday morning during a traffic stop, and he's now fighting for his life in a local hospital.

There's no doubt Officer Moore knew the dangers of police work—his father is retired law enforcement, and his mother still serves on the Indianapolis police department.

But like so many who wear the badge in communities across our Nation, David Moore took an oath to serve and protect others. To run to danger—not away from it.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in praying for Officer Moore and his family. And I ask everyone in this esteemed body to go back to their districts and take the time to thank their local law enforcement officers for the work they do—and the sacrifices they make.

SPECIAL ENVOY TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN THE NEAR EAST AND SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of my colleagues to the plight of Christians and other religious minorities in the Near East and South and Central Asia and to announce that I am introducing legislation which would require the administration to appoint a special envoy for religious minorities in these regions to make this issue a foreign policy priority. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important legislation.

Last October, at least 70 people were killed during a siege on Our Lady of Salvation Church in Baghdad making it the worst massacre of Iraqi Christians since 2003. Less than two months later, extremists bombed the homes of more than a dozen Christian families throughout Baghdad. In a hearing before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, an Iraqi nun testified that the current spate of violence against Christians is worse than anything experienced under the ruthless dictator Saddam Hussein. The U.S. has a moral imperative to ensure that these minorities are protected.

On New Year's Eve, Miriam Fekry, a 22-year-old Egyptian woman posted on her Facebook page before leaving for mass that "2010 is over. This year has the best memories of my life. Really enjoyed this year. I hope that 2011 is much better. Plz God stay beside me & help make it all true." Tragically, that evening Miriam and 22 other people were killed by a suicide bomber in Alexandria, Egypt while coming out of mass at St. Mark and St. Peter Coptic Church. It was the worst violence against the country's Christian minority in a decade. Just ten days after the attack in Alexandria, an off-duty police officer fatally shot a Coptic Christian man and wounded five others Copts on a train in Egypt.

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, countries where the United States has invested its treasure and the lives of countless brave young American soldiers, persecution of Christians runs rampant. On November 7 last year, a Pakistani court sentenced Asia Bibi, a Christian mother of five, to death for the "crime" of blasphemy. Only after intervention by the international community was her execution delayed. Her fate remains unclear. Unfortunately this is symptomatic of a much larger problem in Pakistan. Pakistan's blasphemy laws are often used to victimize both religious minorities and Muslims. In fact, Punjab's governor, influential governor, Salman Taseer was shot and killed by his own body guard who reportedly told police, "that he killed Mr. Taseer because of the governor's opposition to Pakistan's blasphemy law."

In Afghanistan, a televised broadcast of Afghans being baptized resulted in the arrest of four Christians last August, who were eventually released due to international pressure. However, two Afghan converts to Christianity remain imprisoned on account of their faith. One of the Christian converts who is facing a possible death sentence reportedly said, "Without my faith I would not be able to live."

Other religious minorities including the Ahmadis, Baha'is, Zoroastrians and Jews are under increasing pressure in the region.

Last May, militants in Pakistan attacked two Ahmadi mosques in Pakistan killing at least 80 people. While the Ahmadis consider themselves Muslim, Pakistani law does not recognize them as such and they have been the target of large-scale coordinated attacks by extremist groups.

According to the Baha'i World News Service, some 335 Baha'is have been arrested in Iran on account of their religious beliefs. Seven leaders of the Baha'i faith in Iran have been imprisoned since their arrest in 2008. According to the State Department's 2010 International Religious Freedom Report, Zoroastrians living in Iran also face persecution and blatant discrimination.

Members of the Jewish faith continue to experience discrimination and persecution throughout the region. The Special Envoy for Anti-Semitism Hannah Rosenthal has noted that Holocaust glorification "is especially virulent in the Middle East media."

In the wake of these devastating attacks on religious freedom, which in some cases are so severe that they literally threaten to wipe these ancient indigenous communities from the lands they've inhabited for centuries, it is clear that more must be done. Sadly, against the backdrop of these attacks, the post of Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom at the State Department has been vacant for two years.